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EDITORIAL

DURING the spring of 1900 the Director of the United States Geological Survey has planned, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, an important reorganization of the Geologic Branch. In order that the significance of this step should be appreciated in all its bearings, it is desirable briefly to review the history of the administrative and scientific control within the survey. In the First Annual Report Mr. King set forth a plan of organization based on grand geographic and geologic provinces. The work being then restricted to the national domain west of the 101st meridian, four divisions were established, that of the Rocky Mountains under Emmons, that of the Colorado under Dutton, that of the Great Basin under Gilbert, and of the Pacific under Hague. Each of these divisions corresponded to a province within which the geological phenomena had a certain unity of history and character, and it was wisely argued that the work in each should be directed by a geologist familiar with the special problems of the area entrusted to him. At the same time the limited appropriations of the survey and the adopted policy of surveying the most important mining districts led to a concentration of effort upon Leadville, Eureka, and the Comstock Lode, so that initially comparatively little progress was made in solving the broad geologic problems presented to each division. The principal contributions which the West yielded to the philosophy of the science were made by the surveys through whose consolidation the Geological Survey was created. With the growth of the survey and the addition to its corps of many of the leading minds in American geology, more numerous geographic divisions were established and their limits became more artificial. Thus in the Sixth Annual Report we find enumerated, in addition to the ones first established, the Division of Glacial Geology (Chamberlin), the Division of Volcanic Geology

(Dutton), the Division of the Crystalline Schists of the Appalachian and Lake Superior Regions (Pumpelly and Irving respectively), the Appalachian Region (Gilbert), and the Yellowstone Park (Hague). As divisions became more numerous and restricted, the administrative machinery became more complex, and the opportunities afforded the geologists in charge to study broad problems became more and more limited. Finally it was found that the administrative relations were not only difficult but expensive, since they involved the maintenance of independent offices and clerks, and in the interests of economy and efficiency the system of geographic divisions was abolished in 1893. In its place was substituted an organization by parties, of which there were at first twenty and subsequently nearly double that number, each acting independently of the other except in so far as they were all brought into coöperation through the Director and the Assistant in Geology. Broad coördination of scientific work was for the time being subordinated to the accumulation of facts, especially in the form of geologic maps, rather than to the consideration of philosophic problems. After six years of this activity in the working out of special problems, the time has come for broader supervision and coördination of work, and to this end the following appointments have been made:

GEORGE F. BECKER, Geologist in Charge of Physical and Chemical Research.

T. C. CHAMBERLIN, Geologist in Charge of all Pleistocene Geology.

S. F. EMMONS, Geologist in Charge of Investigation of Metalliferous Ores.

C. WILLARD HAYES, Geologist in Charge of Investigation of Non-Metalliferous Economic Deposits.

T. W. STANTON, Paleontologist in Charge of Paleontology.

C. R. VAN HISE, Geologist in Charge of Pre-Cambrian and Metamorphic Geology.

BAILEY WILLIS (Assistant in Geology to the Director), Geologist in Charge of Areal Geology.

The field of supervision of each geologist in charge is coextensive with the work of the Geological Survey and relates to all parties engaged in work connected with his special subject. His assistance in field or office work may appropriately be

offered or invited. His opinion is to be considered authoritative in subjects under his supervision, and his approval to any report may be required. This authority, however, is restricted to the scientific aspects of the work. Administrative direction remains as heretofore wholly in the hands of the Director, and the work of the survey will proceed after the manner which has been found successful, of authorization of plans of operations after full consideration and conference upon estimates submitted by geologists in charge of parties.

Under the organization now adopted, each geologist is at liberty to make full use of the facts which he observes within his field of operations, the degree of supervision exerted by the geologist in charge of any particular subject to be duly credited in an appropriate manner. For the geologists in charge the plan affords an opportunity to study a special subject in all its aspects throughout the field of operations of the survey, either directly by personal observation or by conference with associates. This opportunity is unequalled in both multiplicity and magnitude of the phenomena presented to each specialist.

B. W.